

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

NIC-01 OMB-01 GAC-01 RSR-01 /096 W
----- 036598

R 111448 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6638
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION NATO

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3. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PNR, NO

SUBJECT: CLAIM THAT CIA FLEW AGENTS FROM NORWAY TO USSR PICKED
UP BY OSLO DAILY

1. THE OSLO TABLOID "VERDENS GANG" IS TRYING HARD TO
STIMULATE INTEREST IN ALLEGATIONS THAT CIA IN THE 1950'S
USED A NORTH NORWEGIAN AIR BASE AS A STAGING POINT FOR
FLYING AGENTS INTO THE SOVIET UNION. THE PAPER'S INITIAL
STORY ON MAY 5, BASED ON EXCERPTS FROM THE BOOK "THE
SECRET TEAM" BY FORMER US COLONEL L. FLETCHER PROUTY, HAS
BEEN FOLLOWED UP WITH A MAY 11 STORY HEADLINED "CLAIM
AGAINST CLAIM." THE JOURNALIST, TORE JOHANNESSEN, QUOTES
FOREIGN MINISTRY PRESS CHIEF TIM GREVE AS CATEGORICALLY
DENYING THAT NORWAY WAS EVER INVOLVED IN AN OPERATION OF
THE KIND DESCRIBED BY PROUTY. PROUTY, ON THE OTHER HAND,
IS REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD THE PAPER THAT, "REGARDLESS OF
DENIALS, THE AIRCRAFT DID TAKE OFF FROM NORWEGIAN
TERRITORY ON A MISSION TO DROP AGENTS IN THE SOVIET UNION."

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PROUTY IS ALSO QUOTED AS CHARGING THAT THE ACTION WAS APPROVED ON GOVERNMENT LEVEL BOTH IN THE US AND IN NORWAY.

2. ASKED BY VERDENS GANG WHETHER THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WILL TAKE ANY FURTHER STEPS BEYOND DENYING THE ALLEGATIONS, GREVE IS REPORTED TO HAVE REPLIED: " THE ALLEGATIONS ARE QUITE SERIOUS, AND IF IT IS TRUE THAT HE STICKS TO THEM, THEN IT IS POSSIBLE THAT WE WILL CONTACT HIM." AND, ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, PROUTY VERY DEFINITELY DOES STICK TO HIS STORY.

3. THE PAPER HAS NOT REPORTED THE " NO COMMENT/ WHICH JOHANNESSEEN RECEIVED WHEN HE QUERIED THE EMBASSY PRESS ATTACHE EARLY THIS WEEK, NOR HAVE ANY OTHER PAPERS PICKED UP THE STORY. BARRING A SUDDEN SHOWING OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THERE WILL BE ANY SIGNIFICANT FOLLOW- UP. CROWE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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